

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01 ADP-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8421

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 2233

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, EAID, UN

SUBJ: MEETING ON SAHELIAN DROUGHT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM SYG WALDHEIM TO AMBASSADOR SCALI ASKING FOR THE SAHELIAN ZONE AND INVITING USG TO BE REPRESENTED AT A MEETING ON 29 JUNE TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION.

2. FULL TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RES 1759 (LIV), A COPY OF WHICH IS ATTACHED FOR YOUR INFO.

IN PARA 5 OF THAT RES, THE COUNCIL CALLED UPON ME TO

ORGANIZE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, IN COLLABORATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS

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OF THE UN SYSTEM, THE NECESSARY ASSISTANCE ACTION IN

ORDER TO RESPOND TO THE REQUESTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE SUDANO-

SAHELIAN REGION WITH REGARD TO THE MEDIUM TERM AND LONG TERM NEEDS

ARISING FROM THE DEVASTATING DROUGHT WHICH HAS PLAGUED THE

AREA FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

IN THIS CONNEXION, I HAVE ENCLOSED COPIES OF RESES ADOPTED ON 26 AND 27 MARCH 1973 AT OUAGADOUGOU BY MINISTERS FROM THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES REGARDING THE CRITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE RESULTED FROM THE DROUGHT. THESE RESES PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY INDICATION OF THE VIEWS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED FOR MEDIUM TERM AND LONG TERM ACTION.

IN ANTICIPATION OF MORE DETAILED REQUESTS FROM THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, I HAVE ASKED UNDER- SECRETARY- GENERAL BRADFORD MORSE TO CONVENE A MEETING AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS IN GENEVA ON 28 AND 29 JUNE 1973, IN ORDER THAT ALL CONCERNED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND ORGANIZATIONS MAY BE INFORMED, AT A HIGH OFFICIAL LEVEL, OF MY DECISION TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT MECHANISM DESIGNED TO RESPOND TO THE MANDATE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES AS THEY ARE PRESENTED.

ALTHOUGH THE FIRST DAY OF THE MEETING WILL INVOLVE ONLY OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, BECAUSE OF THE CONCERN OF GOVTS AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MEDIUM TERM AND LONG TERM PROBLEMS OF THIS ZONE, AND MY INTENTION TO INVOLVE GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS TO THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXTENT IN THIS PROCESS, I HOPE THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE PART ON THE SECOND DAY OF THIS MEETING FRIDAY, 29 JUNE 1973.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RES 1759 (LIV), IT IS MY HOPE THAT THIS MANAGEMENT MECHANISM WILL GATHER AND EXCHANGE INFO ON ALL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES NOW UNDER WAY RELATED TO THE SAHELIAN DROUGHT FROM ELEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, FROM THE AFFECTED GOVTS, FROM BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES AND FROM VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS. ON THE BASIS OF THIS INFO, PROGRAMME GAPS WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND HOPEFULLY, WITH THE ASSISTANCE AND PARTICIPATION OF DONOR AND RECIPIENT GOVTS, PRIORITY PROGRAMMES WILL BE ELABORATED TO DEAL WITH THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM EFFECTS
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OF THE DROUGHT. I HAVE ALREADY UNDERTAKEN CERTAIN STEPS TO CARRY OUT THIS TASK.

IT IS HOPED THAT THE MEETING WILL ENABLE ALL ELEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AS TO THE ASSESSMENT OF NEEDS AND SHARE WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS PRELIMINARY PLANS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO MEET THE MEDIUM TERM AND LONG TERM NEEDS OF THE GOVTS OF THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES.

IN THE CONTEXT OF THE ABOVE- MENTIONED EXCHANGE OF INFO, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR GOVT WOULD COMMENT ON WHAT PARTICULAR MEDIUM AND LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES YOUR GOVT DEEMS MOST USEFUL, IF REQUESTED BY THE

CONCERNED GOVTS, AND IN WHAT WAYS YOUR GOVT MIGHT BE IN A POSITION
TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MEDIUM AND LONG TERM PROGRAMMES IN THIS
AREA.
SCALI

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NIAMEY
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